

retrieving from a networked computational service remote from the portable device, an information encoding in correspondence with a result of the performed user-defined operation.

7. The method of claim 1,
wherein the user-defined external state is selected from amongst a predetermined set of external states available for monitoring.

8. The method of claim 1,
wherein the establishing of the user-defined operation includes selecting from amongst a predetermined set of at least partially-predefined queries.

9. The method of claim 1,
wherein the associating of the first indication with the user-defined external state is performed without use of the portable device.

10. The method of claim 1,
wherein the establishing of the user-defined operation is performed without use of the portable device.

11. The method of claim 1,
wherein either or both of the associating of the first indication with the user-defined external state and the establishing of the user-defined operation are performed via the portable device.

12. The method of claim 1,
wherein the user-defined operation includes a query executable at a networked computational service remote from the portable device.

13. The method of claim 1,
wherein in the first indication is a graphical indication.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

associating a second indication with the user-defined external state, the second indication providing textual description rendered in response to selection, at the portable device, of the first indication.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the display device includes a two-dimensional array of display elements suitable for simultaneously presenting plural visual indications displaced throughout at least a portion thereof, the first indication corresponding to at least one of the plural visual indications.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the plural visual indications exhibit at least two indication states each.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the display device includes a two-dimensional array of display elements suitable for simultaneously presenting plural visual indications displaced throughout at least a portion thereof.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the portable device includes one or more of:
a phone;
a personal digital assistant;
a pager;
a palm- or handheld-computer;
a digital media player;
a communications-enabled portable device; and
a WAP- or iMode-enabled portable device.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the telecommunications network transmission and routing facilities include one or more of:
a wireless voice network;
a wireless data network;
a packet-switched data network;
an internet or intranet;

a local- or wide-area network; and
a public switched telecommunications network (PSTN).

20. A portable device comprising:
a space-constrained display including a two-dimensional array of display
elements suitable for simultaneously presenting plural visual
indications displaced throughout at least a portion thereof; and
a communications interface to a telecommunications network, the
communications interface coupled to the space-constrained display and
allowing the portable device to receive information encoding one or
more external states and to update respective ones of the visual
indications based on respective user-defined associations with the
external states.

21. The portable device of claim 20,
wherein the external states are user selected and include one or more of
weather status, environmental status, system status, information status,
and news, sports or financial status.

22. The portable device of claim 20,
wherein the plural visual indications are grouped based on correspondence of
the associated external states.

23. The portable device of claim 20,
wherein the telecommunications network includes one or more of a wireless
voice network, a wireless data network, a packet-switched data
network, an internet or intranet, a local- or wide-area network and a
public switched telecommunications network (PSTN).

24. The portable device of claim 20,
embodied as one or more of a phone, a personal digital assistant, a pager, a
palm- or handheld-computer, a digital media player, a
communications-enabled portable device and a WAP- or iMode-
enabled portable device.

1 31. An apparatus comprising:
2 means for presenting a visual indication on a display device;
3 means for associating, based on a user selection, the visual indication with a
4 state external to the apparatus; and
5 means for receiving an information encoding corresponding to the external
6 state and for updating the visual indication based thereon.

1 32. The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:
2 means for ascertaining the external state and for communicating the
3 information encoding corresponding thereto.